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In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98 submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner are patents, publications and other information listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

While the references identified may be material to the examination of this application pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the citation of these references is not intended to constitute an admission that any reference referred to herein is prior art to the invention of this application unless specifically designated as such.


The filing of this document shall not be construed to mean that any search has been made or, that if made such search was complete or exhaustive, or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 exists.

A list of the references is set forth on Form PTO-1449, which is enclosed herewith in duplicate along with a copy of each cited reference. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return to Applicants the enclosed copy of the Form PTO-1449 indicating consideration of the references.

☒ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 28, 2001

By: 
Thomas M. Thibault, Reg. No. 42,181
(858) 651-2356

QUALCOMM Incorporated
Attn: Patent Department
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121-1714
Telephone: (858) 651-1179
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502